

Joint Communiqué of the United States and Singapore
on the Status of Cooperation under the Memorandum of Intent on Environmental
Cooperation at the Annual Review of the U.S. – Singapore Free Trade Agreement
(FTA)

Singapore
October 10, 2008

- On October 10, 2008, Barbara Weisel, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, met with KOH Lin-Net, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), via a Digital Video Conference to conduct the fourth annual review of the U.S.- Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Representatives from both countries discussed the status of U.S.-Singapore cooperation under the FTA's Memorandum of Intent on Environmental Cooperation.
- The U.S. reported on the outcomes of the United States – Singapore Biennial Meeting on the Memorandum of Intent on Environmental Cooperation which took place on October 30, 2007. At that meeting, the Parties reviewed their accomplishments under their first Plan of Action for implementing the Memorandum of Intent and approved a new Plan of Action for 2008 through 2010. The goals in the new Plan of Action include encouraging the use of climate-friendly and other innovative environmental technologies, encouraging Singapore and the United States to increase their participation in regional environmental initiatives, and improving environmental law.
- Some of the accomplishments achieved to date under the Plan of Action for 2008 through 2010 include the following:
 - The United States and Singapore co-hosted a workshop from October 30 to November 2, 2007 in Singapore to train regional port inspectors and customs authorities to identify ramin wood. This training program reflects an important commitment by key government agencies from the United States, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and China to work together in an effort to curb illegal traffic in this endangered species of timber.
 - TRAFFIC Southeast Asia conducted a training workshop on Wildlife Trade Regulation from July 29 to 30, 2008 for checkpoints and CITES officers, which featured basic techniques in handling live specimens of wild fauna and case studies of the illegal freshwater turtle and tortoise trade in Southeast Asia and the python trade in Singapore.
 - A six-member delegation from Singapore attended the U.S. EPA's National Workshop on Terrain Decontamination held from September 24 to 26, 2008 in North Carolina to advance insights and discussion on pollution management techniques.

- Two officials from the Singapore Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), the CITES Management Authority of Singapore, consulted with the Fish and Wildlife Service and various other U.S. agencies which implement CITES during a CITES study tour in September, 2008, exchanging information on law enforcement methods and CITES implementation practices and systems.
- In the future, the two governments look forward to continued cooperation in the areas of terrain decontamination, air quality management and energy efficient technologies.
- We also look forward to further cooperation on enforcement, including efforts to improve capacity for enforcement of wildlife laws under CITES and regional efforts to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed endangered or threatened species such as ramin wood.
- The U.S. government will develop a proposal in 2009 for a regional dialogue on illegal logging and associated trade. The proposed dialogue will build on an existing dialogue between the U.S. and Indonesia (in the context of a bilateral MOU) to include Singapore and other countries in the region.
- We hope to cooperate on reducing or preventing illegal discharge of oil at sea by ships and on reducing fuel consumption and air emissions from ships and maritime ports.
- We are also exploring opportunities for working together on watershed management and water safety.
- Both Singapore and the United States take seriously their commitments under the Memorandum of Intent. We agree to build on our significant progress of environmental cooperation by continuing to seek out opportunities for expanded engagement and exchanges. We will continue efforts under the current work plan toward advancing the goals of the Memorandum of Intent on Environmental Cooperation.

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